

PARANÁ SEDIMENTARY BASIN AND MERCOSUR INTEGRATION: NEW TRENDS ON GEOSCIENCES FOR THE 21TH CENTURY

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The Paraná sedimentary Basin represents an important natural environment rarely discussed as a resource. It is a huge (1.200.000km²) cratonic basin located in the South-Central region of the South America: Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentine. These countries compose the Mercosul-Mercado Comum do Sul, a big trade and social pact. The sedimentary pile of the Paraná Basin has considerable economic potential untill now exploted only rudimentarily, except for its groundwater resources. Aggregates, limestones, clays, industrial sands, gems, dimension stones, hydrocarbon, coal, peat and uranium are some of the potential mineral resources of this basin. In many locales, the soil fertility is proper for agriculture and food production. Hydroeletic power-station, cities and industries are others varieties of land-use and occupation. Any way that we examine the future of humans, in the next century the quality of life will be dependent first and foremost upon food, water, energy and nonfuel resources, attributes founded in the Paraná Basin. A higher standard of living and economic growth of the southern region of the South America depend upon an integrate and global government politics. The Mercosul could represent a good chance of progress under an optimistic point of view.